



**Inland Regional Energy Network  
I-REN Executive Committee**

**AGENDA**

**Tuesday, November 18, 2025  
2:00 PM**

**WRCOG HAS MOVED  
PLEASE NOTE THE NEW LOCATION:**

**1955 CHICAGO AVENUE  
RIVERSIDE, CA 92507**

**Remote Meeting Locations:**

**CVAG  
74-199 El Paseo  
West Building, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

**2642 Avenida del Presidente  
San Clemente, CA 92672**

**Members of the public are welcome to participate  
remotely from any location. Committee member  
participation is limited to locations that are listed on the**

# published agenda.

## [Public Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 886 4326 1379

Passcode: 585575

Dial in: 669 444 9171 U.S.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in the I-REN Executive Committee meeting, please contact WRCOG at (951) 405-6706. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting. In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, agenda materials distributed within 72 hours prior to the meeting which are public records relating to an open session agenda item will be available for inspection by members of the public prior to the meeting at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside, CA, 92501.

In addition to commenting at the Committee meeting, members of the public may also submit written comments before or during the meeting, prior to the close of public comment to [lfelix@wrcog.us](mailto:lfelix@wrcog.us).

Any member of the public requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting in light of this announcement shall contact Lucy Felix at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at (951) 405-6706 or [lfelix@wrcog.us](mailto:lfelix@wrcog.us). Later requests will be accommodated to the extent feasible.

The Committee may take any action on any item listed on the agenda, regardless of the Requested Action.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER (Art Bishop, Chair)

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 3. ROLL CALL

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time members of the public can address the Committee regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee that are not separately listed on this agenda. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called for discussion. No action may be taken on items not listed on the agenda unless authorized by law. Whenever possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Committee in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.

### 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. Prior to the motion to consider any action by the Committee, any public comments on any of the Consent Items will be heard. There will be no separate action unless members of the Committee request specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar.

#### A. Action Minutes from the October 21, 2025, I-REN Executive Committee Meeting

##### Requested Action(s):

1. Approve the Action Minutes from the October 21, 2025, I-REN Executive Committee meeting.

### 6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called for discussion.

#### A. Overview of Assembly Bill 39 - Local Electrification Planning Act

##### Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

**B. I-REN 2028-2035 Business Plan Application**

**Requested Action(s):** 1. Receive and file.

**7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Art Bishop, Town of Apple Valley

**8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Members are invited to suggest additional items to be brought forward for discussion at future Committee meetings.

**9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members are invited to announce items / activities which may be of general interest to the Committee.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next I-REN Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., in **WRCOG's new office at 1955 Chicago Avenue, Riverside.**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**12. AGENCY ACRONYMS**

**Inland Regional Energy Network Acronym Guide**

3C-REN – Tri-County Regional Energy Network (Counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura)

ABAL – Annual Budget Advice Letter

AHJ – Authority Having Jurisdiction

AVCE – Apple Valley Choice Energy

BayREN – Bay Area Regional Energy Network (nine-County REN in northern California)

BUC – Building Upgrade Concierge

C&S – Codes & Standards

CAEECC – California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee

CalChoice – California Choice Energy Authority

CAISO – California Independent System Operator

CARB – California Air Resources Board

CCA – Community Choice Aggregator

CCEC – California Climate & Energy Collaborative

CEC – California Energy Commission

COG - Council of Governments

CPA – Clean Power Alliance

CPUC – California Public Utilities Commission

CVAG – Coachella Valley Association of Governments

DAC – Disadvantaged Communities

DACAG – Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

DCE – Desert Community Energy

DER – Distributed Energy Resources

DOE – U.S. Department of Energy

EE – Energy Efficiency

EM&V – Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification

EV – Electric Vehicle

GHG – Greenhouse gas

HTR – Hard To Reach communities  
IID – Imperial Irrigation District  
IOU – Investor-Owned Utility  
I-REN – Inland Regional Energy Network  
JCM – Joint Cooperation Memorandum  
LGSEC – Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition  
LGP – Local Government Partnership  
MOA – Memorandum of Agreement  
NEBs – Non-energy Benefits  
NMEC – Normalized Metered Energy Consumption  
NREL – U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
PG&E – Pacific Gas & Electric  
PA – Program Administrator  
POU – Publicly-Owned Utility  
REN – Regional Energy Network  
RMEA – Rancho Mirage Energy Authority  
RPU – Riverside Public Utilities  
SBCOG – San Bernardino Council of Governments  
SCE – Southern California Edison  
SoCalGas – Southern California Gas Company  
SDG&E – San Diego Gas & Electric  
SJP – San Jacinto Power  
SoCalREN – Southern California Regional Energy Network (all of southern California, administered by Los Angeles County)  
TA – Technical Assistance  
TOU – Time of use  
TRC – Total Resources Cost  
V2G – Vehicle to Grid  
WE&T – Workforce Education & Training  
WRCOG – Western Riverside Council of Governments

# I-REN Executive Committee

## Action Minutes

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the I-REN Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Art Bishop at 2:00 p.m. on October 21, 2025, at WRCOG's office.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Bishop led the Committee members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. ROLL CALL

#### CVAG

- City of Indio - Oscar Ortiz\*

#### SBCOG

- City of Grand Terrace - Bill Hussey
- County of San Bernardino - Curt Hagman
- Town of Apple Valley - Art Bishop (Chair)

#### WRCOG

- City of Jurupa Valley - Chris Barajas

\*Arrived after Roll Call

#### Absent

- City of Eastvale - Christian Dinco
- City of San Jacinto - Crystal Ruiz

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

### 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Hagman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Barajas
<b>AYES:</b>	Hussey, Hagman, Bishop, Barajas

### A. Action Minutes from the July 15, 2025, I-REN Executive Committee Meeting

**Action:**

1. Approved the Action Minutes from the July 15, 2025, I-REN Executive Committee meeting.

**B. First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with Frontier Energy for ongoing Codes & Standards Program Activities**

**Action:**

1. Recommended that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and Frontier Energy for ongoing program support in the Codes & Standards Sector in an amount not-to-exceed \$3,956,195.00, for a term through December 31, 2027.

**C. First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with Alternative Energy Systems Consulting for ongoing Public Sector Program Activities**

**Action:**

1. Recommended that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and Alternative Energy Services Consulting for ongoing program support in the Public Sector in an amount not-to-exceed \$855,000.00, for a term through December 31, 2027.

**D. Approval of a First Amendment to an Agreement for Services with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship Program for Service Year 2025/2026**

**Action:**

1. Recommended that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to enter into a First Amendment to an Agreement for Services with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to identify, recruit, and place up to 24 full-time Fellows, and up to 11 three-quarter term Fellows, within the I-REN service territory for program service year 2025/2026.

**E. First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with ICF Resources, LLC, for IREN Marketing Support through 2027**

**Action:**

1. Recommended that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with ICF Resources, LLC, for marketing services through December 2027.

**6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

**A. Approval of 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule**

**Action:**

1. Approved the schedule of Executive Committee meetings for 2026.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Barajas
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Hagman
<b>AYES:</b>	Ortiz, Hussey, Hagman, Bishop, Barajas

**B. Equitable Building Decarbonization Program Activities Update**

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**C. Third-Party Residential Coordination Activities**

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Chair Bishop reported that he recently attended a tour of the San Bernardino City College for an overview the I-REN Fellowship Program, and thanked staff who helped put together the first I-REN Resource Fair in the Town of Apple Valley for Commercial and Industrial Resources held by I-REN, Cascade Energy, and Welden. The Government Relations representative from Southern California Edison also attended the Fair and answered many questions about how I-REN will move forward hand-in-hand with Southern California Edison. Chair Bishop expressed his interest in seeing the program grow and extending events into Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, as there is a lot of commercial and industrial growth.

**8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Chair Bishop asked for an update on Assembly Bill 39, which was recently signed by the Governor, and will affect 25 of 54 cities in California.

**9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Bishop congratulated I-REN for receiving the California Green Schools award and looks forward to seeing more awards displayed in the new office space. Chair Bishop stated that a letter of support was sent to the Fontana Unified School District for the Fellowship Program.

Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, stated that the third cohort of I-REN Fellows started their internship. This year, there are 24 Fellows hired for an 11-month term, and a possible additional 11 Fellows for an 8-month term. Mr. Dailey welcomed new Fellows Cindy Nieto, Sarah Fuentes, and Chase Abramson, who will be working at WRCOG, and Giovanni Valencia Baxter, who is back for a second-year term at WRCOG. In addition to the California Green Schools award for being an environmental champion, I-REN is also a finalist for the Inland Empire Economic Partnerships award, Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet; the event will take place on November 6, 2025. I-REN has a few extra seats and Mr. Dailey invited Committee members to attend. Mr. Dailey also stated that a draft I-REN Business Plan will be presented in November 2025, for a final submission in February 2026. Between November and January, all three COGs will present it to their respective Committees for

vetting.

#### **10. NEXT MEETING**

The next I-REN Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., in WRCOG's new office located at 1955 Chicago Avenue, Riverside.

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.





# Inland Regional Energy Network

## I-REN Executive Committee

### Staff Report

**Subject:** Overview of Assembly Bill 39 - Local Electrification Planning Act

**Contact:** Casey Dailey, Director of Energy and Environmental Programs, [cdailey@wrcog.us](mailto:cdailey@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6720

**Date:** November 18, 2025

#### **Recommended Action(s):**

1. Receive and file.

#### **Summary:**

[California Assembly Bill \(AB\) 39](#) (Local Electrification Planning Act) requires that California cities and counties with over 75,000 people incorporate electrification planning into their general plan on or after January 1, 2027, but no later than January 1, 2030. These plans must outline goals, policies, and actions to advance electrification of buildings and transportation, supporting the state's climate and zero-emission goals. The law applies to both general law and charter cities, emphasizing that electrification is a statewide concern, and establishes a planning framework to guide local governments in transitioning to electric energy systems.

#### **Discussion:**

#### **Background**

AB 39 was introduced by Assemblymember Rick Zbur and signed into law in October 2025. The Bill responds to California's broader push to decarbonize two of its largest emission sources — buildings and transportation — and recognizes electrification as a statewide concern. While many cities and counties have developed climate and energy strategies, progress has been uneven across the state, and the bill aims to create a uniform requirement so that mid-sized and large jurisdictions systematically plan for electric infrastructure, fleet conversion, and building retrofits.

#### **Present Situation**

AB 39 requires that California cities and counties with over 75,000 people incorporate electrification planning into their general plan (or create and adopt a standalone plan) on or after January 1, 2027, but no later than January 1, 2030. Planning must address multiple components, including:

- Identifying where zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure could be expanded to meet future need, including removal of barriers to expansion. This includes identification of where to expand

EV charging in public parking lots / structures, and consideration of creating public electric charging corridors.

- Developing strategies for public electrification / decarbonization of buildings, including consideration of incentives for property owners and low-income households.
- Identifying where renewable energy sources could be expanded, such as rooftop solar, microgrids, and battery storage.
- Assessing infrastructure needs to support medium- and heavy-duty ZEV fleets.
- Identifying where grid infrastructure upgrades are needed to meet electrification / decarbonization needs.
- Prioritizing equity, addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities, low-income households, and small businesses.

Existing General Plan provisions or other plans that address these requirements may be used to comply with the Bill. This is a State-mandated local program, and no State reimbursement is provided for implementation costs. The Bill does not explicitly address non-compliance.

The table below lists Riverside and San Bernardino County agencies that meet the applicability criteria outlined in AB 39.

*Table 1: Applicable Agencies by County*

<b>Riverside County</b>	<b>San Bernardino County</b>
Corona	Apple Valley
Hemet	Barstow
Jurupa Valley	Chino
Menifee	Chino Hills
Moreno Valley	Colton
Murrieta	Fontana
Perris	Hesperia
Riverside County (unincorporated)	Highland
Riverside (city)	Ontario
Temecula	Rancho Cucamonga
	Rialto
	San Bernardino County (unincorporated)
	San Bernardino (city)
	Upland
	Victorville

The following agencies are currently below the 75,000-population threshold, though they may surpass it before the implementation date, depending on population growth:

*Table 2: Potentially Applicable Agencies by County*

<b>Riverside County</b>	<b>San Bernardino County</b>
Eastvale	Redlands
Lake Elsinore	

I-REN is uniquely positioned to offer no-cost services to agencies that need assistance meeting state requirements for this new Bill. I-REN is currently in the process of building its next Business Plan

Application and budget for 2028-2031. As part of the proposed budget, funding will be included under the Codes & Standards Sector to help support jurisdictions in their respective compliance with AB 39.

**Prior Action(s):**

None.

**Financial Summary:**

I-REN is currently in the process of building its next Business Plan Application and budget for 2028-2031. As part of the proposed budget, funding will be included under the Codes & Standards Sector to help support jurisdictions in their respective compliance with AB 39.

**Attachment(s):**

None.



# Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** I-REN 2028-2035 Business Plan Application  
**Contact:** Casey Dailey, Director of Energy & Environmental Resources, [cdailey@wrcog.us](mailto:cdailey@wrcog.us), (951) 235-5125  
**Date:** November 18, 2025

### **Recommended Action(s):**

1. Receive and file.

### **Summary:**

Every four years, I-REN is required to submit a new Business Plan Application (BPA) to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for continued funding. The next BPA is due to be submitted by February 2026. The Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) is a coalition of three councils of government - WRCOG, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), and the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) - encompassing Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and all their respective jurisdictions within the region. These organizations have joined to establish locally administered, designed, and delivered energy efficiency programs.

### **Discussion:**

### **Background**

The I-REN Business Plan, approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for program years 2022 through 2027, is structured around three main sectors, each with specific programs designed to address the unique needs of the Inland Empire region:

### **Public Sector:**

- **Objective:** Provide comprehensive, wrap-around, energy efficiency services to local jurisdictions, including 52 cities, 78 unincorporated county areas, and 17 tribal areas.
- **Key Programs:**
  - *Technical Assistance and Strategic Energy Planning Program:* Offers technical support, energy audits, and project design assistance for publicly owned facilities, aiming to increase energy efficiency and strategic investments in municipal and community buildings. Working in tandem with the Technical Assistance Program is the Building Upgrade Concierge (BUC), a digital and person-to-person technical assistance tool to guide agencies through the

visualization of energy use of publicly-owned facilities being considered for energy efficiency improvements. Public Sector Financing Services are also included, assisting agencies in accessing innovative financing options for energy efficiency upgrades.

- *Public Buildings Normalized Metered Energy Consumption (NMEC) Program*: Known as Cash for Kilowatts, this Program provides incentives for meter-based energy savings achieved over three to five years, with a focus on supporting under-resourced local governments that lack capacity for building upgrades.

### **Codes & Standards (C&S) Sector:**

- **Objective:** Support improved compliance and enforcement of energy codes and standards, particularly in smaller jurisdictions facing resource constraints.
- **Key Programs:**
  - *Training and Education Program*: Delivers targeted training and outreach to local building department staff and industry actors, empowering them to be energy efficiency leaders.
  - *Technical Support Program*: Provides technical assistance, improved communications, and systems to increase efficiency and compliance with codes and standards.

### **Workforce Education & Training (WE&T) Sector:**

- **Objective:** Build a skilled, local, clean energy workforce by providing equitable and targeted training opportunities, especially for underserved and hard-to-reach communities.
- **Key Programs:**
  - *Training and Education Program*: Coordinates with local providers, community colleges, and California State Universities to deliver workforce training locally.
  - *Workforce Development Program*: Enhances connections between job seekers, training providers, and employers, supporting the growth of a clean energy workforce and economy. Working within the Workforce Development Program is the I-REN Fellowship, which places interns, or “Fellows,” in public agencies to build capacity and support engagement with all I-REN programs.

### **Organizational and Programmatic Growth:**

- **Strategic Plan Development:** I-REN developed a 5-year Strategic Plan (2023–2027) to guide program evolution, ensure effective use of CPUC funding, and align activities across member agencies. The Plan was shaped by extensive stakeholder input, including surveys, workshops, and committee feedback.
- **Program Launch and Expansion:** After initial delays, I-REN rapidly onboarded consultants, launched orientations, and began program implementation across all sectors. Eighteen orientations were conducted, reaching 133 public agency staff from 41 jurisdictions, plus 16 other agencies.

- **Branding and Outreach:** I-REN established a cohesive brand, website, and marketing materials to increase visibility and engagement . Outreach campaigns, job fairs, and various sponsorships have significantly increased awareness and participation.
- **Workforce Initiatives:** With an annual goal of placing 27 Fellows, the Energy Fellowship Program began by placing 11 Fellows in local public agencies, and outreach to community colleges and universities has expanded workforce development efforts, increasing the annual number of placed Fellows to 24. I-REN anticipates surpassing its annual goal of placing 27 Fellows in 2026.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Staffing and programmatic adjustments have been made to expedite project development and initiation, with additional consultant support added as needed.

## **Present Situation**

**Business Plan Application (BPA):** I-REN staff and partners are in progress across various tasks associated with the BPA filing as described below, according to broad categories of CPUC BPA requirements. The CPUC continues to issue updated guidance and resources related to the BPA filing, and I-REN is closely monitoring and adjusting its BPA process in real time to align with the Commission's expectations.

**Sector Strategy:** As directed by the I-REN Executive Committee earlier this year, I-REN is pursuing continued authorization for energy efficiency activities within the Public, WET, and Codes & Standards Sectors. A major focus of the portfolio will be cross-sector coordination, to illustrate the interrelated nature of I-REN's programs in supporting each other's objectives.

Another significant focus will be increasing regional awareness of other Program Administrator's (PA) program offerings for sectors not directly included in I-REN's portfolio, e.g., Residential, Commercial, and Industrial, as directed by the I-REN Executive Committee.

**Budget Approach:** The CPUC requires PAs to demonstrate the reasonableness of their budget requests through zero-based, bottom-up budgeting in which every cost must be justified and aligned with delivering intended program outcomes.

Given the current affordability crisis and pressure applied to energy efficiency PAs (and RENs in particular) by state agencies and utility ratepayer advocates, I-REN staff are considering a budget strategy that weighs the realities of prior years' underspending with expected increases in activity in the years to come.

While I-REN anticipates requesting similar average annual budgets to its current portfolio, planned areas of expansion and new activities may warrant adjustments within sectors or requests for modest increases to currently authorized budgets.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** Guidance and insights received in the early part of the year from I-REN Executive Committee members laid a foundation for pursuing continued achievements and growth within the current sectors, while working to address stakeholders' communicated needs related to energy efficiency support for sectors outside I-REN's portfolio.

To assess current program performance and opportunities, as well as stakeholder challenges and needs related to energy efficiency, I-REN began conducting outreach in September 2025 via the following methods:

- Sector meetings with program implementers.
- Listening sessions and online surveys open to a variety of audiences and stakeholders including public sector agencies, community colleges and schools, community-based organizations, tribal entities, special districts (library, parks & recreation, community service districts, fire protection), and construction firms.
- In June 2025, I-REN launched its Evaluation, Measurement and Verification (EM&V) workplan which includes several studies to assess current programs' performance and opportunities for enhanced services that could be addressed through the BPA.

**CPUC Strategy Alignment:** The CPUC continues to provide additional guidance on Portfolio Strategies and other required topics the PAs must address in their four-year and eight-year time horizons.

Several of these strategy and topic areas are well-aligned with I-REN's current and emerging programmatic approaches: increases in workforce education and training, emphasis on meter-based savings measurement, innovation in program delivery, advancing building decarbonization, supporting the CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan, and coordination with other PAs and programs.

I-REN's portfolio addresses these strategies across all sectors, with just a few examples, including the following:

- Local agencies provide job opportunities for I-REN Energy Fellows who in turn support Cash for Kilowatts projects that save energy for public sector customers via meter-based savings measurement—a unique program delivery model that cuts across public and workforce sectors to benefit participants in both types of programs.
- I-REN's Codes & Standards and WE&T Sectors both focus on increasing educational support to energy efficiency building professionals, through developing and hosting I-REN-branded trainings and by establishing crucial partnerships in the region to demonstrate the high-road job opportunities in energy efficiency. I-REN is laying the groundwork now for increasing innovative workforce opportunities in 2026 and beyond, into the new BPA funding period.
- I-REN has partnered with the California Energy Commission (CEC) for their Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD) Program, a residential direct install program with an emphasis on serving disadvantaged communities. I-REN is a partner for CEC EBD implementation in the southern California region. While this work is not funded via the BPA filing, the CPUC is interested in how PAs' energy efficiency programs coordinate with larger statewide efforts. Through this work I-REN will learn best practices and develop partner relationships within the residential sector, increase local and regional awareness of I-REN and EBD Program opportunities, and help inform expansion of workforce development initiatives to ensure local workers can participate in this and other regional and statewide energy efficiency opportunities.

- As stakeholder engagement results and EM&V study findings emerged in October, those insights will guide the finalization of portfolio- and sector-level strategies and programmatic activities. Budget and energy savings forecasting will also be informed by stakeholder insights to ensure the portfolio is justified according to CPUC requirements and crafted to meet local and regional needs.

### **Budget: Past and Future**

BPAs are submitted on a four-year cycle and are required to include an eight-year plan each time they are submitted. If they are approved, they receive authorization for a four-year budget cap as well as four-year budget forecast approval for the latter four years of the eight-year plan. I-REN filed its first BPA in 2021, prior to the adoption of the four-year / eight-year framework. Because of the timing of I-REN's BPA filing, the CPUC approved I-REN for a six-year budget, instead of a four-year budget, to allow I-REN to synchronize with the other PAs for the next four-year BPA filing.

I-REN's 2022-2027 approved budget is for \$65.5M and is illustrated in Attachment 1 to this Staff Report. Every two years, PAs are required to file a Mid-Cycle Advice Letter (MCAL) to show their program expenses and to allow them to make any needed adjustments to their current budget based on their spending trends. This includes rolling over unspent funds to remaining years of the four-year cycle. I-REN submitted its MCAL on November 4, 2025. Based on the spending trends in I-REN's MCAL, and consideration of the original CPUC approved budget, staff was able to develop a draft BPA budget for 2028-2035 which can also be seen in Attachment 1 to this Staff Report. This high-level budget will continue to be refined through the CPUC's required zero-based budgeting process and is subject to change. The resulting detailed final budget will consider staffing needs, fully burdened rates for the COG partners, planned contracts and partnerships, and other key factors.

In I-RENs 2022-2027 budget, the annual amount authorized by the CPUC was approximately \$10.5M. Using that annual amount as a baseline and based on I-REN's current spending trends, I-REN estimates an increase of the annual amount to an average of \$17.3M across the eight-year horizon, to meet the growing needs of the programs I-REN offers. The increased amount is due to the following considerations:

### **Public Sector offerings:**

- **Support steady growth:** As the number of interested agencies grow, increased funding for technical assistance is crucial to shepherd energy retrofit projects through the design and installation process.
- **Direct response to local needs:** In response to requests from elected officials and other stakeholders, I-REN proposes investing in outreach and education to inform local agencies on EE opportunities for other market sectors, e.g., residential, small business / commercial, and industrial.
- **Address barriers through innovation:** Some projects are not a fit for a meter-based savings measurement approach; I-REN will explore alternative project pathways to overcome challenges in accessing EE retrofits.
- **New comprehensive audit services:** Starting in 2026 and anticipated to continue through the



next BPA period, I-REN is now approved to offer holistic audit services for projects including both energy efficiency and other distributed energy resources such as solar and storage and electric vehicle to grid charging. These services fall under the budget category “Integrated Demand Side Management (IDSM).”

### **Codes & Standards offerings:**

- **Local leadership:** Build on I-REN’s successful C&S training program foundation to further position I-REN as a leader and trusted source of EE education and guidance.
- **Cross-portfolio collaboration:** Serve as a technical advisor to local public sector agencies in navigating legislative requirements, e.g., Assembly Bill 39 local jurisdiction planning requirements; leverage training framework for I-REN Energy Fellows EE workforce education; coordinate with contractor outreach for increasing awareness of job opportunities in the HVAC trades.

### **Workforce Education & Training offerings:**

- **Expand Fellowship reach:** Due to significantly increased interest from applicants and hosting agencies for I-REN’s Energy Fellowships, I-REN proposes to double the number of available fellowships from 27 to 54 in the years ahead.
- **Expand County Workforce Development Partnerships:** The current partnership between I-REN and both San Bernardino and Riverside County Workforce Development Departments represents a significant and long term investment to support existing clean energy career pipelines and pathways. This partnership allows both I-REN and each County to leverage in-kind resources and stretch ratepayer dollars through collaboration and supports other key partners for supporting EE workforce education and job pathways. I-REN is proposing to increase the investment in both Counties to support this long term investment.

### **Prior Action(s):**

**May 20, 2025:** The I-REN Executive Committee authorized 1) submittal of the I-REN 2028-2035 Business Plan for programs and services related to Public, Workforce Education & Training, and Codes & Standards Sectors and 2) directed I-REN staff to establish better relationships and coordination with existing Energy Efficiency Programs offering services in the Commercial, Residential, and Industrial Sectors, to bring additional resources, programs and services to the communities of the Inland Empire.

### **Financial Summary:**

I-REN has an existing, six-year, \$65M budget approved by the CPUC from through program years 2022 - 2027. Through October 31, 2025, I-REN has spent approximately \$19M of its \$65M, six-year budget through the end of 2027.

The amount for the next funding period is currently being analyzed and will be submitted with the new Business Plan. Based on the latest draft, the I-REN's budget will be an eight-year, \$138M budget. Specific sector breakdowns including staffing, incidentals, consulting, incentives, and other various expenses will be included in forthcoming iterations of the business plan.

**Attachment(s):**

Attachment 1 - Current & BPA Budgets

## Attachment 1: I-REN Business Plan Budgets - Current (2022-2027) & Draft (2028-2035)

### 2022-2027 I-REN Authorized Budget from CPUC Decision (D.) 21-11-013

Category	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Authorized 6-yr Total
Public Sector	6,288,194	6,191,722	6,629,390	7,074,566	7,074,566	7,074,566	40,333,004
WE&T	2,253,295	2,393,426	2,437,164	2,674,650	2,674,650	2,674,650	15,107,835
C&S	1,446,107	1,503,952	1,564,110	1,626,674	1,626,674	1,626,674	9,394,191
IDSMS*							
EM&V	114,441	115,604	121,810	130,349	130,349	130,349	742,902
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,102,037</b>	<b>10,204,704</b>	<b>10,752,474</b>	<b>11,506,239</b>	<b>11,506,239</b>	<b>11,506,239</b>	<b>65,577,932</b>

\*NOTE: IDSMS was not yet available in 2021 when I-REN's original budget was approved by CPUC (shown above) but has subsequently been added for 2025-2027 as a portion of the Public Sector budget. For the next BPA draft budget it appears as a separate line item below.

### 2028-2035 I-REN Business Plan Application (BPA) Draft Budget Proposal Summary

Category	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	Proposed 8-yr Total
Public Sector	7,645,486	8,262,479	8,929,264	9,649,858	10,428,605	11,270,196	12,179,705	13,162,611	81,528,202
WE&T	2,890,495	3,123,759	3,375,847	3,648,279	3,942,697	4,260,873	4,604,727	4,976,330	30,823,008
C&S	1,709,147	1,795,801	1,886,849	2,039,118	2,203,676	2,381,513	2,573,702	2,781,400	17,371,206
IDSMS*	327,060	352,084	379,059	409,649	442,708	478,434	517,044	558,770	3,464,808
EM&V	510,214	549,252	591,332	639,052	690,624	746,358	806,589	871,681	5,405,101
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,082,401</b>	<b>14,083,375</b>	<b>15,162,350</b>	<b>16,385,957</b>	<b>17,708,309</b>	<b>19,137,375</b>	<b>20,681,767</b>	<b>22,350,792</b>	<b>138,592,326</b>

### Acronyms

WE&T: Workforce Education and Training

C&S: Codes and Standards

IDSMS: Integrated Demand Side Management

EM&V: Evaluation, Measurement and Verification